

Message Text

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71

ACTION EUR-12

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NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02

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R 061510Z FEB 76

FM AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1133

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL NICE

UNCLAS MARSEILLE 0053

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, FR

SUBJECT: MARSEILLE LABOR VIOLENCE - MEDIA BATTLE CONTINUES

REF: MARSEILLE 0050

1. SECOND FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL SIGNED BY DEPUTE-MAIRE GASTON DEFFERE ON F.O. - CGT CLASH DESCRIBED REFTEL APPEARED IN PROVENCAL MORNING FEBRUARY 6. UNDER HEAD "ERROR OR LIE ? " DEFFERE OBSERVES THAT " MARSEILLE COMMUNIST PARTY " HAD TWO CHOICES FOLLOWING INCIDENT ... " TO RECOGNIZE FACTS AND APOLOGIZE, OR TO DENY THEM AND CONTRERATTACK. " POINTING OUT THAT COMMUNISTS CHOSE SECOND OPTION, DEFFERE STATES, " LOGIC OF THIS CHOICE HAS LED LEADERS OF MARSEILLE COMMUNIST PARTY TO USE AN OLD METHOD THAT CONSISTS OF REPEATING A LIE MANY TIMES IN ATTEMPT TO TRANSFORM IT INTO TRUTH. IN THIS WAY, LITTLE BY LITTLE, THE COMMUNIST PRESS HAS MANAGED TO CHANGE THINGS TO SUCH A POINT THAT, NOW, IT IS MOSCATI (F.O.) WHO IS PRESENTED AS AGRESSOR, WHEN HE IS IN HOSPITAL WITH SERIOUS HEAD WOUND." DEFFERE MENTIONS COMMUNIST ACCUSATIONS THAT HE IS ATTEMPTING TO COVERUP TYPE OF ATTACK USED BY STRONG ARM MEN OF PATRONAT AGAINST MILITANTS OF WORKING CLASS. HE POINTS OUT THAT,

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THANKS TO RADIO AND TELEVISION, SUCH METHODS HAVE BECOME INEFFECTIVE

AND COMMENTS, " THIS WOULD BE LAUGHABLE IF IT WASN'T SO BAD. DEFFERE MENTIONS GEORGE SEGUY'S ACCUSATION THAT HE (DEFFERE) IS ATTACKING CGT "EN BLOC" AND SAYS SEGUY KNOWS VERY WELL THAT HE IS AIMING ONLY AT THOSE DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR INCIDENT. DEFFERE ASKS IF THOSE TAKING PART IN CAMPAIGN AGAINST HIM WILL EVER UNDERSTAND THAT FACE OF COMMUNIST PARTY HAS CHANGED AND THAT THEIR METHODS ARE THOSE OF PAST. STATING THAT INCIDENT WAS BADLY TIMED PRIOR TO OPENING OF COMMUNIST PARTY CONGRESS DEFFERE CONCLUDES, "...AS CONVINCED PARTISAN OF UNION OF LEFT I REGRET HAVING BEEN PLACED BEFORE MORAL OBLIGATION TO PUBLICLY PROTEST AT THIS MOMENT AGAINST ASSAULT COMMITTED BY VINCENT MANCA". (CGT).

2. MASS MEETING OF F.O. MEMBERS AT MARSEILLE S BOURSE DE TRAVAIL ON FEBRUARY 5 TO PROTEST CGT VIOLENCE WAS DESCRIBED BY DEFFERE S PROVENCAL AS "DIGNIFIED AND IMPOSING". SECRETARY GENERAL OF HOSPITAL WORKERS UNION (F.O.) M. PADOVANI SAID "WE ARE TOLERANT AT THE F.O. BUT WE WILL NOT ALLOW MINORITY, IN SERVICE OF OUTDATED IDEAL TO IMPOSE VIOLENCE".

3. COMMUNIST DAILY " LA MARSEILLAISE" BURIED DISPUTE ON PAGE 6 WITH BRIEF ATTACK ON F.O. LEADERSHIP FOR ATTEMPTING TO COVER UP "TOTAL ABSENCE OF UNION LIBERTY IN MUNICIPAL SERVICES".
SIMPSON

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